

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151

INFO /AMEMBASSY LISBON 697

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 178

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE: FLA POST INDEPENDENCE VIEWS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 171; PONTA DELGADA 174

1. DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 1, GOMES DEMENESES DESCRIBED FLA THINKING FOR INDEPENDENT AZORES. FLA WOULD HOLD ELECTIONS FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, BUT WOULD NOT PERMIT COMMUNISTS OR MARXIST PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE. IT PROBABLY WOULD ALLOW SOCIALIST PARTY OF SOARES TYPE TO EXIST.
2. ACCORDING GOMES DEMENESES, INDEPENDENT AZOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN TOURISM AND CATTLE/DAIRY PRODUCTION. LATTER, GOMES SAID, WOULD REQUIRE CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL LAND HOLDINGS AND MECHANIZATION OF INDUSTRY, WHICH WOULD REDUCE RURAL EMPLOYMENT. GOMES NOTED THAT REAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE DURING PERIOD OF AZOREAN AUTONOMY (1895-1926).
3. COMMENT: GOMES VIEWS CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION THAT FLA BASICALLY MOVEMENT TO UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES WHO WANT PROTECT AND EXPAND THEIR INTERESTS. FLA, MAY, HOWEVER, BE ABLE CAPITALIZE ON INCREASING AZOREAN DISCONTENT OVER LISBONS POLICY TOWARD DAIRY AND CATTLE PRODUCTION TO WIDEN

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ITS BASE OF SUPPORT.

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Message Attributes

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